EXERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI **DIG**-VIJ AY SINGH): (a) to (c) The State Governments have formulated debt relief schemes for cooperatives on the pattern of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 of the Government of India and the same are being implemented by them For cooperatives, till 24th December 1990, 152 lakh beneficiaries have been identified and relief to 101 lakh out of them provided to an extent of Rs. 2, 481 crores. As per report available from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, an amount of Rs. 738 crores has been given as grant and Rs. 671 crores as loans to cooperatives for implementing the schemes. The implementation of the schemes is still in progress.

**कपड़े के मूल्यों में वृद्धि**

863. डा. अबरार अहमद: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस वर्ष के दौरान कपड़े के मूल्यों में अत्यधिक वृद्धि हुई है, यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और सरकार द्वारा मूल्यों को घटाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहें हैं; और

(ख) सरकार द्वारा गरीबों को सस्ती दर पर कपड़ा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

वस्त्र तथा खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री (श्री हुकुमदेव नारायण यादव) : (क) मार्च, 1990 से नवम्बर, 1990 तक की अवधि के दौरान हथ-करघा सूती कपड़े की थोक बिक्री का कीमत सूचकांक में प्रतिशत वृद्धि 0.1 है तथा मिलों के सूती कपड़े की 3.5 है । इसी अवधि के दौरान विद्युत करघा सूती कपड़े की थोक बिक्री के कीमत सूचकांक में 2.1 प्रतिशत तक की गिरावट आई । इस प्रकार कपड़े की कीमतों में कोई अत्यधिक वृद्धि नहीं हुई है ।

(ख) सरकार समाज के कमजोर वर्गों की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए कन्ट्रोल कपड़ा योजना/जनता कपड़ा योजना चला रही है ।

**News-item captioned 'Assistance sought in S*. Kitts Probe'**

864. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE **be** pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item cap tioned, 'Assistance sought in St. Kitts Probe' which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 29th November, !990

(b) whether Chandraswamy against whom warrants were issued for appearing before CBI has arrived in India; and

(c) whether it is a fact that his contacts are helping him to get th« cases quashed; if so, what steps the CBI is taking in the matter[7]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINIS- ^ TRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRT DIGVLMY SINGH); (a) The PTI News Item dated 28th November, 1990 in 'Times of India' dated 29-12-1990 is captioned Letters Rogatory to 3 countries in St. Kitts Probe' and not "Assistance sought in St. Kitts Probe. " This news-item is factually correct. Six Letters Rogatory have been sent to US, Canada and St. Kitts seeking judicial assistance by CMM, Delhi on the request of CBl during October, 1990.

(b) Shri Nemi Chand Gandhi *alias* Chandrasamy has arrived in India on 25-11-1990. No warrants have **been** issued in this case for his appearance before CBI.

(c) The field investigations by CBI are being carried out in this case without any interruption.

**Missing customs officials working in coastal area of Tamil Nadu**

865. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government nave received reports about the missing of a few customs officials working in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu during November 1990; and

(b) whether Government enquired into this incident and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eight officials of the Customs and Central Excise Collectorate, Tiruchira-palli embarked on seа patrol on 23-11-1990 from Point Calimer on Tamil Nadu Coast. They were thereafter reported missing and returned safely to Rameshwaram only on 30-11-1990. Enquiries made indicate that they strayed from their course due to bad weather and also lost direction and were unable to maintain contact either with the shore party or the Collectorate Headquarters about their whereabouts.

**Vacancies of Judges in High Courts ana the Supreme Court**

866. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH;

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government directives relating to reservation for the Scheduled and 1990 and at present in the Supreme Court and each of the High Courts and what is the present position in this regard;

(b) what is the present procedure of appointment or promotion of a Judge in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and at what levels the suggestions emanate and are cleared and then finally decided;

(c) whether there is any proposal to cut short the delay in the procedure, unnecessary interference/blockage in the procedure in view of the serious consequences of large number of vacancies remaining unfilled; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY); (a) A statement giving the required information is attached. *(See* below).

(b) Appointments of the Judges of the Supreme Court are made in accordance with the provisions of Article 124 of the Constitution. Appointments of Judges of the High Courts are made in accordance with the provisions of Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution.

(c) The Government have introduced the Constitution (Sixty-seventh Amendment) Bill, 1990 in the Lck Sabha on 18-5-1990 regarding setting up of a National Judicial Commission for appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for transfer of Judges of the High Courts.

(d) For filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court the process of consul tation with the Constitutional autho rities is on, for making appointments.